



TED STRICKLAND
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

May 4, 2007

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Rural Health Care Pilot Project

Dear Rural Health Care Pilot Project Review Committee:

I am pleased to offer my support and endorsement of the proposed One Community Rural Health Care project. This initiative, designed to serve the Northeast Ohio Region, has been created in response to the Federal Communication Commission announcement for a Rural Health Care Pilot Program. Its implementation will propel the adoption of health information technology and the exchange of health information, two agendas that fit perfectly within our Broadband Ohio Initiative and our Turnaround Ohio program.

The Strickland Administration just took office this year. During the campaign, we set forth a clear vision that calls on creating sufficient broadband capacity throughout Ohio to ensure that all communities and all Ohioans can benefit from such capacity. We know how important this capacity is to bringing the vision of effective health information exchange into reality.

Moreover, my administration is dedicated to having its health-related state agencies participate in efforts to promote better adoption of health information technology and exchange of health information. As a result, we are working closely with the Health Policy Institute of Ohio on the Health Information Security and Privacy Collaboration contract that began under Governor Taft and to find ways to help implement the recommendations in the HIT Roadmap for Ohio. To that end, staff of the Governor's Office and of state agencies have worked with HPIO and interested parties to develop a cohesive strategy for responding to opportunities such as this FCC grant request and to make sure that the proposals we endorse build toward this strategic vision. Moreover, this Administration and our state agencies will also work closely with this project, should it receive funding from the FCC.

We believe that the One Community Rural Health Care project is an important and worthwhile project that embodies what you have stated you are looking to fund. This project creates a broadband structure needed to further implement a statewide health information network. One Community and the Northeast Ohio Rural Health Organization, NEO RHIO,

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have developed a consortium of regional, urban and rural healthcare providers, vendors, technology researchers and government advisers. This consortium is well designed to coordinate the efforts of several statewide healthcare initiatives and leverage the resources of all, bringing cost-saving eHealth services to those who might not otherwise receive quality health care. The additional gigabyte optical fiber connections to hospitals, care providers, patients and government health agencies in Northeast Ohio provide a physical network model that can be applied in other rural areas of the state, thus meeting the requirements and objectives set forth by this FCC funding opportunity.

Finally, we are pleased to offer a strong recommendation to One Community and NEO RHIO. Their partnerships, developed across several industries, provide structure and vision to ensure project sustainability and access for future eHealth Initiatives. Should there be any questions regarding our support or this letter, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ted Strickland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ted" and last name "Strickland" clearly legible.

Ted Strickland
Governor, State of Ohio